

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 DOTE-00 /086 W

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R 171131Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7506

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 19356

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, EGEN, UK

SUBJECT: COMMONS APPROVES CHRYSLER RESCUE PLAN

REF: (A) LONDON 19317; (B) LONDON 18923

1. AS ANTICIPATED, PARLIAMENTARY LABOR PARTY (PLP) RELUCTANTLY FELL BEHIND GOVERNMENT IN HOUSE OF COMMONS VOTE, ASSURING APPROVAL OF CHRYSLER RESCUE SCHEME (REF A) BY 285 TO 260 VOTE, THOUGH FIFTEEN RIGHT-WING LABORITES  
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ABSTAINED. GMVERNMENT WAS JOINED BY SCOTTISH NATIONAL

PARTY (SNP) AND PLAID CYMRU, THE WELSH NATIONALISTS. OUTCOME OF VOTE, HOWEVER, DID NOT REFLECT PARLIAMENTARY SENTIMENT, AS PLP BACKBENCHERS' CRITICISM OF PROPOSAL WAS AT LEAST AS ACRID AS THAT FROM THE OPPOSITION BENCHES.

2. LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS EDWARD SHORT EARLIER IN THE DAY TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE CABINET HAD VERY RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO BAIL CHRYSLER OUT, FULLY RECOGNIZING THAT THE SCHEME REPRESENTED A SERIOUS SETBACK FOR THE NEW INDUSTRIAL POLICY, BUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED CHRYSLER SUI GENERIS. SHORT ALSO INDICATED CONSIDERABLE DOUBTS TO OUTCOME OF COMMONS VOTE, ASSERTING THAT SHOULD GOVERNMENT LOSE, IT WOULD QUICKLY BRING FORWARD CONFIDENCE MOTION THAT WOULD BRING DEFECTING LABOR MPS BACK INTO CAMP AND DEFUSE DIFFICULT POLITICAL SITUATION.

3. COMMENT: HAVING WON THE PROCEDURAL VOTE ON THE CHRYSLER RESCUE PLAN, WE WOULD NOT EXPECT THE GOVERNMENT TO ENCOUNTER SERIOUS DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING PASSAGE OF THE SUBSTANTIVE LEGISLATION REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT PLAN WHEN IT COMES TO VOTE ON DECEMBER 17. ABSTENTION OF RIGHT-WING LABOR MPS WAS BITTERLY RESENTED BY THE LEFT (AND THE GOVERNMENT), REKINDLING THE FLAMES OF INTERNAL DISACCORD IN THE PLP WHICH WERE FANNED BY THE RECENT PLP LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS (REF B).

RICHARDSON

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## Message Attributes

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